

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-18 have been amended in such manner as to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph. Each of the claims has been rewritten, as necessary, to positively recite the claimed subject matter.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 9, as amended, distinguishes applicant's invention patentably over Morley. Claim 9 recites a slip ring seal assembly having a slip ring 2, a sealing body 4, and a securing element 10. The slip ring 2 is positionable within an installation bore of a member to be sealed, as shown in the drawings. The slip ring 2 has a circumferential outer surface that is encircled and engaged by the ring-shaped sealing body 4. The sealing body 4 includes an outer circumferential surface which is adapted to engage a corresponding support surface of the bore of the member to be sealed and a secondary seal 7 which is directed radially outwardly of the outer circumferential surface of the sealing body 4 in position to sealingly engage the bore of the member to be sealed. The ring-shaped securing element 10 encircles the slip ring 2 in axially adjacent contacting relation to the sealing body 4. The securing element includes a securing shoulder 11 facing axially away from the sealing body and positioned to engage a corresponding retaining feature 12 of the bore when installed in the bore to secure the sealing body against removal axially out of the bore past the securing element. This combination of structural elements and features is neither shown nor suggested by Morley. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 should be allowed.

**Appln. No.: 10/642,994**  
**Amdt. dated December 8, 2004**  
**Reply to Office action of September 9, 2004**

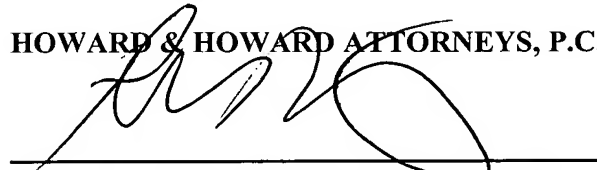
The remaining claims depend, ultimately, from claim 9 and are believed allowable for the same reasons. The dependent claims distinguish over their parent and one another by reciting applicant's invention in greater detail.

It is believed that this application now is in condition for allowance. Further and favorable action is requested.

The Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 08-2789.

Respectfully submitted,

**HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.**



**December 8, 2004**

Date

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **Amendment** for U.S. Serial No.: 10/642,994 filed August 18, 2003 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on December 8, 2004.

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